



Faith, Hope & Love

Midwinter Power in the Spirit 2025

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

MONDAY



THE REV. JESSICA DARTY
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, PULASKI

TUESDAY



EDITH BLAKE
ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH,
PORTSMOUTH

WEDNESDAY



THE REV. WES SMITH
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH,
WAYNESBORO

OUR SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2025

5:30 PM	Zoom Rooms Open
5:45 PM	Welcome
5:50 PM	Biblical Storytelling
5:55 PM	Bible Study
6:25 PM	Workshops
7:05 PM	Evening Prayer



REGISTER TODAY AT [VASYNOD.ORG/POWER-IN-THE-SPIRIT](https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit)





Faith, Hope & Love

Midwinter Power in the Spirit 2025

Our fifth annual Midwinter Power in the Spirit online gathering will be held on February 3-5, 2025!

We will learn how the words of I Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." relate to Mary, Mother of Jesus, Abraham, and Mary of Bethany. These three major people in our Bible show how we can apply faith, hope, and love in our lives today. You will have the opportunity to participate in one of two workshops each evening relating to the theme of the evening.

Our Bible study leaders will be Rev. Jessica Darty (Trinity, Pulaski) on Monday night, Edith Blake (St. Andrew, Portsmouth) Power in the Spirit Coordinator on Tuesday night, and Rev. Wes Smith (Zion, Waynesboro) Power in the Spirit Coordinator on Wednesday night. They will lead us to learn more about Mary, Mother of Jesus, Abraham, and Mary of Bethany by looking at their lives and how faith, hope, and love work in their lives.

To participate in the event, you must **register by January 29** at vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit. There is no cost to participate.

DAILY EMAIL

Each morning, you will receive an e-devotional. Pray and study on your own time.
Hear reflections from leaders near and far.



SUPPORT MICAH STREET CHURCH

Micah Street Church is an ecumenical faith community without walls that creates a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness and those in the community seeking connection and spiritual growth. Each week, neighbors gather to hear God's word, share in God's love, and lift up their voices in worship together. Your gift supports the ongoing ministry of this vibrant faith community.

To learn more about Micah Street Church go to micahfredericksburg.org/about-us/ministries/street-church/

ABOUT EVENING PRAYER

At the end of the night, we will worship with evening prayer, thanking God for the gifts of Faith, Hope, and Love and asking the Holy Spirit to remind us that, like the examples we have studied, our ministry is to use those gifts to show love to each other.

ALL OUR SPEAKERS

MONDAY. FEBRUARY 3 - FAITH



THE REV. JESSICA DARTY
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,
PULASKI



TOM JONES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FAITH
INCLUSION NETWORK



MARTIN PAULSON
SAM AT SHILOH LUTHERAN CHURCH,
BLACKSBURG

BIBLE STUDY LEADER-JOHN 19:25-27

Mary, the mother of our Lord, is lifted up throughout the whole Church as a model of faith. While the church often focuses on Mary’s role in the Nativity story, Mary is also remembered as the first Apostle because she was the first to believe in the power and kingship of her Son. In this Bible Study, we will examine how Christ's call to Mary and the beloved disciple is also reflected in each of us in our baptism and explore how this call from the cross invites us to emulate Mary's faith and become the body of Christ together.

FAITH AND DISABILITY - OPENING DOORS FOR BELONGING

This workshop will focus on the different ways churches can include people with disabilities and provide a place of belonging. The workshop will focus on the theology of disability inclusion as a starting point. Research from interviews with churches will be shared. Myths about disability ministry will be discussed. Practical ways of starting a disability will also be shared.

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE THROUGH THE EYES OF A SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”
How do you see these in your congregation? This class will give you a glimpse of how a small country church, through the eyes of their synod authorized minister, sees them fulfilling how they have faith, hope and love and how that has affected the members of the church and the community they are in. The class will have discussion as well as examples of what the church is doing that shows faith, hope and love.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - HOPE



EDITH BLAKE
ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH,
PORTSMOUTH
POWER IN THE SPIRIT COORDINATOR



MEGHANN COTTER
EXECUTIVE SERVANT LEADER
AT MICAH STREET CHURCH



THE REV. MEREDITH WILLIAMS
VIRGINIA LUTHERAN HOMES

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

Finding Purpose, Ministry, and Mission with Senior Adults
How can we, in the Family of Faith, help our senior adults find renewed purpose in their lives, Mission and Ministry as they discover their new identities? Seniors are struggling with identity just like our youth are; who am I now that I am retired, now that I don't live in the same home I've been in for 40 years, now that my independence has changed?

THE REV. KEITH OLIVIER
VIRGINIA LUTHERAN HOMES



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - LOVE



THE REV. WES SMITH
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH,
WAYNESBORO
POWER IN THE SPIRIT COORDINATOR

BIBLE STUDY LEADER - JOHN 12:1-8 - MARY OF BETHANY: THE MANY WAYS OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

No follower of Jesus gives us more examples of love in action than Mary of Bethany. Her act of love in anointing Jesus prior to his death is regarded by both Mark and John as the preeminent act of love shown to Jesus. But in addition to her extravagant love, she is valued in the Gospels for the way she treasured God’s Word and gave continued support to Jesus throughout his ministry. Although she is best known for showing love, Mary of Bethany demonstrates how it was possible to be a disciple of Jesus in reality, even if not by title. In so many ways, Mary of Bethany was a model then and today for what it means to love Jesus.



DR. ERIC HILKER
ADVISING FELLOW AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MAKING ROOM FOR NEIGHBORS: A WORKSHOP ON LOVING FOLKS ON THE MARGINS

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor..., but have not love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Cor 13:3) If love requires more than donating to the poor, what does it actually mean to love our neighbors in need? Hospitality constitutes an essential feature of such love in both scripture and church history. More than simply supplying needs (as important as this is), hospitality makes room for outsiders in our churches, in our cities, and in our lives. In this workshop, we will spend time considering practices of hospitality in the Bible and in Christian history. We will then think together about what we can do to make room for outsiders in our own context.



THE REV. TERRIE STERNBERG
PULASKI

WORKING TOWARD BEING ANTI-RACIST

This workshop is both an invitation and a challenge! The invitation is to look within at our implicit biases regarding race with grace. The challenge is to explore ways in which we can - individually and institutionally - work toward becoming anti-racist and pro-reconciliation